

Message Text

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46

ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 USIA-15 EUR-12 IO-10 /041 W

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R 151130Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0287

AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS NICOSIA 3583

NESCO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL

SUBJECT: HARVARD ANTIQUITY COLLECTION AT MORPHOU

REF: A) NICOSIA 3394, B) STATE 219491

1. DCM VISITED HARVARD UNIVERSITY ARCHEOLOGICAL TEAM'S STOREROOM AT MORPHOU OCTOBER 12 IN COMPANY OF GEORGE MARKOU, DR. EMILY VERMEULE'S ASSISTANT IN EXCAVATION AT TOMBA TOU SKOUROU. MARKOU BELIEVES UP TO 100 PIECES OF RECONSTRUCTED POTTERY ARE NO LONGER PRESENT IN STOREROOM. WHEN HE LAST SAW ROOM PRIOR TO SECOND WAVE OF TURKISH INVASION, MOST OF THESE POTS WERE PACKED IN BOXES BEING READIED FOR SHIPMENT CYPRUS MUSEUM IN NICOSIA. MARKOU SAYS IT SHOULD NOT REPEAT NOT BE FOREGONE CONCLUSION THAT TURKS HAVE REMOVED THESE OBJECTS EITHER TO MAINLAND TO ADD TO THEIR OFFICIAL COLLECTION OR THROUGH UNCONTROLLED LOOTING. HE BELIEVES IT IS POSSIBLE THAT GREEKS MAY HAVE LOOTED COLLECTION BEFORE RETREATING AND THAT SOME ITEMS MAY TURN UP ON NICOSIA MARKET. THERE IS NO WAY WE CAN MAKE JUDGEMENT ON THIS AT MOMENT.

2. MARKOU WAS OTHERWISE SATISFIED WITH STATE OF COLLECTION AND SEEMED RELIEVED THAT NOT MORE ITEMS MISSING. AS NOTED REFTTEL (A), TRAYS OF ARTIFACTS REMAIN ON SHELVES AND SEEM IN GOOD ORDER. MARKOU'S INVENTORY IN NICOSIA; HE SAID IT WOULD TAKE LONG TIME TO VERIFY COMPLETENESS OF COLLECTION IN ANY EVENT. PRESENCE OF TURK MILITARY ESCORTS MADE DETAILED EXAMINATION IMPRACTICAL. BUILDING IS UNDER PROTECTION OF MORPHOU COMMANDER, A TURK ARMY
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MAJOR, AND HAS SEAL OF TURKISH MUSEUM ON DOOR. COMPOUND OCCUPIED

BY MILITARY. UNESCO DELEGATION VISITED STOREROOM O/A OCTOBER 10.

3. I HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO MEET TEMIZER AS YET. BASED UPON OUR OBSERVATION OCTOBER 12, HOWEVER, BELIEVE THAT MORPHOU COLLECTION IS AS SECACE AS IT COULD BE GIVEN CIRCUMSTANCES AND THAT TURKS WILL TRY TO PROTECT.

4. REQUEST DEPARTMENT PASS ABOVE TO DR. EMILY VERMEULE, 319 BOYLSTON HALL, HARVARD UNIVERSITY.

5. FOR PARIS: PLEASE PASS PARAS ONE AND TWO TO DR. GERARD BOLLA, TO WHOM WE PROMISED REPORT ON DCM'S VISIT. CRAWFORD

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED HARVARD UNIV.

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